

Ed Raarup

Author · Composer · Actor



Ed Raarup is originally from Ashland, Wisconsin, and has been involved with the performing arts for most of his life, receiving three bachelor degrees from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, in vocal music performance, music education and theatre. He was a member of the Minnesota Repertory Theatre, and he also studied acting and musical theatre in the graduate program at the University of California, Irvine.

From there, he moved to New York City and pursued a professional acting career. His television credits include *One Life to Live*, *All My Children*, *The Guiding Light*, *Another World*, *Search for Tomorrow* and *As the World Turns*. His theatre credits include performances in music revues at a number of Manhattan cabaret clubs, and he has also performed roles in regional theatres including Harold Hill in *The Music Man* and George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life*.

As a community volunteer, he supported the creation of an all-accessible playground for children named [Firefly Field](#) in Matamoras, Pennsylvania, developed by the [Biondo Memorial Foundation](#). This endeavor inspired and led to his debut published work as an author/composer entitled [Fireflies and Shooting Stars](#) which has won the prestigious Mom's Choice Awards Silver Seal of Excellence, the Moonbeam Children's Book Awards Gold Medal and the USA Best Book Award for Winner in Child's Fiction. The story addresses the challenges of being different and having the determination to fit in. It is about Enzo, a little firefly without a taillight, who sets out on a fantastical journey to find his light which leads him to realize his own unique strengths and the importance of accepting the differences in oneself and others – a starlit, magical ride of courage, truth and hope for all ages! The unique 10 chapter storybook has over 80 beautiful illustrations by [Lindsay D. Nery](#) and 10 original songs by [Ed Raarup](#). The inspirational title song and musical arrangements were written by [Michael Rice](#), and the story was edited by renowned author and editor [Emma Walton Hamilton](#). The songs were recorded by Broadway performers including [Lynne Wintersteller](#), Jennifer Smith, Gina Milo and Scott Hayward.

Ed is a member of AEA, SAG-AFTRA and the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. He is also Owner/President of MoonWatch Productions – a company he created to develop and publish books, music and theatrical works.

His current projects include a holiday sequel to [Fireflies and Shooting Stars](#) to be published in 2017 and a unique collection of short stories about life where he grew up in the northern Midwest. Ever optimistic, he is determined to continue writing and developing more stories and music.

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